

December 12, 2012

ITEM NO. D2

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH NATIONAL ABLE
NETWORK AND DE LA SALLE INSTITUTE TOLTON CENTER TO PROVIDE
LITERACY SERVICES**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into contracts with National Able Network ("Able") and De La Salle Institute - Tolton Center ("Tolton") to provide adult literacy services in an aggregate not-to-exceed amount of \$997,143 for a two-year base period from December 19, 2012 through December 18, 2014, with two (2) additional one-year options.

The Executive Vice President (EVP) of Resident Services, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Procurement have completed all necessary due diligence to support the submission of this initiative and recommend the approval of this item accordingly.

CORPORATE GOAL

These contracts support CHA's corporate strategy of providing services and supports that empower residents for success in the global economy.

FUNDING: CHA General Fund

SOLICITATION SUMMARY

Vendors:

National Able Network
567 West Lake, Suite 1150
Chicago, Illinois 60661

De La Salle Institute – Tolton Center
3455 South Wabash
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Contract Type:

Professional Services

Aggregate Contracts Not-To-Exceed Amount:

\$997,143

Contract Term:

December 19, 2012 – December 18, 2014

Option Period:

Two (2) One-Year Options

M/W/DBE Participation:

National Able Network

Direct:

MBE ____ % WBE ____ % DBE ____ %

Indirect:

MBE ____ % WBE ____ % DBE ____ %

Waiver ____ (Yes/No)

Section 3:

Hiring ____ (#) Subcontracting ____ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities ____ (\$)

M/W/DBE Participation:

De La Salle Institute - Tolton Center

Direct:

MBE ____ % WBE ____ % DBE ____ %

Indirect:

MBE ____ % WBE ____ % DBE ____ %

Waiver ____ (Yes/No)

Section 3:

Hiring ____ (#) Subcontracting ____ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities ____ (\$)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Research shows that more than 600,000 adults in the Chicago area are below an eighth grade literacy level, with very low-income adults making up nearly 50% of that population. Adults with low literacy are more likely to earn lower wages, are less likely to engage in academic activities with their children and are correlated to higher crime rates.

Literacy is also a barrier to employment and advancement for many CHA residents. Most training programs (and many jobs) require at least a ninth grade reading level; however, assessments show that many residents read below this level. The literacy services to be provided by these programs will target residents with very low literacy levels, defined as being at or below a sixth grade level, as determined by the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). It is the goal of the program that participants will increase literacy levels with expectation that they will be able to achieve goals related to further employment and education or training. A total of 300 residents will enroll in the programs, with a minimum of 200 participants successfully completing the program. Any resident who is referred to Able or Tolton and tests above the target literacy level prior to enrollment will be referred to additional services provided by the respective agency (e.g., adult education, employment assistance, GED programs).

National Able is a multi-state organization that provides individuals with employment counseling, training and placement services, and in 2005 established the Able Career Institute in response to the growing demand for adult remedial and bridge education opportunities. It is through the Career Institute, in conjunction with funding through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), that Able will serve CHA residents in its introduction to adult literacy program.

For more than 22 years the Tolton Center has provided adult education and family literacy services to low-skilled and low-income adults. Tolton's menu of programming includes literacy training, adult basic education, English as a Second Language, family literacy and life skills (e.g., career planning, employability). The Tolton Center uses evidence-based models for their literacy programs and has a significant record of showing measurable gains in adult literacy. Tolton will be increasing the capacity of its existing programs to serve CHA residents in its adult literacy program.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with all applicable Chicago Housing Authority board policies and all applicable federal (HUD) procurement laws.

The EVP of Resident Services concurs with the recommendation to enter into contracts with National Able Network and De La Salle Institute -Tolton Center to provide literacy services.

The CEO/President recommends the approval to enter into contracts with National Able Network and De La Salle – Tolton Center for adult literacy services in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$997, 143 for the period of December 19, 2012 through December 18, 2014, with two (2) one year options for each respective contract reserved to the CHA to exercise at its discretion.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-CHA-111

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Board Letter dated December 12, 2012 entitled “AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH NATIONAL ABLE NETWORK AND DE LA SALLE INSTITUTE TOLTON CENTER TO PROVIDE LITERACY SERVICES”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

THAT the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into contracts with National Able Network and De La Salle Institute – Tolton Center for adult literacy services in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$997, 143 for the period of December 19, 2012 through December 18, 2014, with two (2) one year options for each respective contract reserved to the CHA to exercise at its discretion.

These awards are subject to each Contractor’s compliance with the CHA’s MBE/WBE/DBE, Section 3 resident hiring, and bonding and insurance requirements.

